

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4058

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CASC, DR

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2805

1. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION LAST NIGHT, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF SANTO DOMINGO (DR. CANO), WHO IS PROSECUTING THE CASE AGAINST THE THREE DETAINED PUERTO RICANS, TOLD ME THAT THE CASE AGAINST THEM WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH STRICT IMPARTIALITY AND SCRUPULOUS RESPECT FOR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. HE APPRECIATED ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS.

2. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID FURTHER THAT THE THREE PUERTO RICANS HAD FREELY CONFESSED THAT THEY BROUGHT THE THREE DOMINICAN GUERRILLAS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, AND THAT THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THEMSELVES TO BE MARXIST-LENINISTS. HOWEVER, THEY HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF REPRISALS FROM THE PSP IF THEY RETURNED TO PUERTO RICO. HE ALSO INFORMED ME THAT A WRAPPED PACKAGE OF DRUGS HAD BEEN FOUND ON THE BOAT BUT THE DETAINED PERSONS HAD STATED THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ITS CONTENTS SINCE IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT ALONG BY THE GUERRILLAS.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE NEXT STEPS IN PROCESSING THE CASE, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID THAT THE THREE WOULD BE QUESTIONED BY
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THE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS. HE STATED,

IN REPLY TO MY QUERIES, THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR FURTHER CONSULAR CONTACT WITH THE DETAINED PERSONS ON FRIDAY AND, THROUGH THE EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER, OF VISITS TO THEM BY MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR LAWYERS. HE EXPECTED THAT THE DETAINED PERSONS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS. ASKED WHAT WOULD BE DONE DURING THIS TWO-MONTH PERIOD, SINCE THE MILITARY HAD ALREADY EXTENSIVELY QUESTIONED THE DETAINED PERSONS, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID THAT THE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE THE CASE ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT IN ITS REGULAR ORDER. TWO MONTHS WAS JUST AN ESTIMATE, HE INDICATED, IT MIGHT BE LESS.

AXELROD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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